

The council shall consist of any number of members not less than three nor more than twelve.

(6) Mode of election of the council:

- a. All candidates shall be nominated and elected by all the qualified voters of the city.
- b. The city shall be divided into electoral districts; council members shall be apportioned to the districts so that each member represents the same number of persons as nearly as possible, except for members apportioned to the city at large, if any; the qualified voters of each district shall nominate and elect candidates who reside in the district for seats apportioned to that district; and all the qualified voters of the city shall nominate and elect candidates apportioned to the city at large, if any.
- c. The city shall be divided into electoral districts; council members shall be apportioned to the districts so that each member represents the same number of persons as nearly as possible, except for members apportioned to the city at large; and candidates shall reside in and represent the districts according to the apportionment plan adopted, but all candidates shall be nominated and elected by all the qualified voters of the city.

If either of options b. or c. is adopted, the council shall divide the city into the requisite number of electoral districts according to the apportionment plan adopted, and shall cause a map of the districts so laid out to be drawn up and filed as provided by G.S. 160A-22 and 160A-23. No more than one half of the council may be apportioned to the city at large. An initiative petition may specify the number of electoral districts to be laid out, but the drawing of district boundaries and apportionment of members to the districts shall be done in all cases by the council.

(7) Elections:

- a. Partisan.—Municipal primaries and elections shall be conducted on a partisan basis as provided in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes for the nomination and election of county officers (as modified by Article 6 of this Chapter).
- b. Nonpartisan.—Municipal elections shall be conducted as provided in Article 6 of this Chapter.

(8) Selection of mayor:

- a. The mayor shall be elected by all the qualified voters of the city for a term of not less than two years nor more than four years.
- b. The mayor shall be selected by the council from among its membership to serve at its pleasure.

(9) Form of government:

- a. The city shall operate under the mayor-council form of government in accordance with Part 3 of Article 7 of this Chapter.
- b. The city shall operate under the council-manager form of government in accordance with Part 2 of Article 7 of this Chapter and any charter provisions not in conflict therewith.

"§ 160A-102. *Amendment by ordinance.*—By following the procedure set out in this section, the council may amend the city charter by ordinance to implement any of the optional forms set out in G.S. 160A-101. The council shall first adopt a resolution of intent to consider an ordinance amending the charter. The resolution of intent shall describe the proposed charter amendments briefly but completely and with reference to the pertinent provisions of G.S. 160A-101, but it need not contain the precise text of the charter amendments necessary to implement the proposed changes. At the same